

# The Hawaiian Star,

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY.

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Frank L. Hoogs, - - - - - Manager

THURSDAY.....APRIL 14, 1904

## A RUSSIAN DEFEAT.

When shall we know the truth about Port Arthur. Not probably till the war is long over. It was only the other day that Admiral Alexieff announced that the Japanese bombardment had done practically no damage to the fortifications and the city itself. Against this there were accounts from vessels which had been held in the harbor and which did not agree with the statements made by the Russian officials. It may be taken as a true estimate of the damage done at Port Arthur, that the Russians have minimized the damage done. After all who can blame them? They are practically the under dog in the fight, and they have to whistle up the wind to give courage.

Yesterday the account has come to us that the Russian battleship Petropavlovski has been sunk, carrying to their doom over eight hundred men, and Admiral Makaroff, the man who had been sent to Port Arthur to carry on a more aggressive campaign than Admiral Stark, his predecessor. As the telegram reads the Russian vessel touched a mine and was suddenly hurled into oblivion. According to the account only forty maimed men were saved.

The story comes, not from Japanese sources, but from Russian sources. We can, then, be satisfied that the news of the awful disaster is correct. The Russian flagship has evidently been destroyed with a fearful loss of life, but has it been destroyed by the Russian mines, or has it been destroyed by a Japanese shell? That is a question which naval experts must examine very closely. The story of Russian vessels being blown up by their own mines is getting altogether too common for belief. Of course one could form a theory about Russian anarchists, but there is no necessity to form such a theory. As was stated in the Star months ago, the Russian is not a sailor. The Russian has never won anything honestly on the sea. The Russian is no better today than he was eighty years ago. His ships are the meat of any seafaring nation. The Russian depends on his cavalry, and cavalry at this stage of development is simply meat for infantry. The Cossack is going to his end when he attacks quick-firing guns and repeating rifles. Both on sea and land the Japanese have the Russians.

## PANAMA CANAL.

The President's instructions to the Panama Committee are somewhat didactic in character. Most of the things said in it might be assumed without any public expression. But he has decided to say them and with the statements down in black and white. His reason for this will be shown later. Thus it might be assumed that the President chose the members of the commission on the ground that they were the men best fitted to bring this important work to a successful conclusion. It might also be assumed that the personal and professional reputations of the members for integrity and ability were among the controlling considerations influencing this appointment, and that political considerations played hardly any part in making the appointments. But this is duly set down.

The President further says that if at any time he feels that any one of the members is not rendering the best service which it is possible to procure, he will feel called upon to disregard alike his own feelings for the man and the man's own feelings and forthwith to substitute for him on the commission some other man whom he deems capable of rendering better service. So he declares he will expect that if at any time any member of the commission shall feel that the work is too exhausting for him to do in the best possible manner, he will of his own accord so inform the President, in order that the latter may replace him by some man who to the requisite ability joins the will and the strength to give all the effort needed. On the other hand, while the members of the commission render efficient service of the highest type they may count upon the support of the President in every way.

Having laid out these views for the commission he then gives his reason for so doing. What he indicates as principles guiding him with regard to the members of the commission, he expects them to apply in the choice and retention of their subordinates. He will expect them to appoint no man for reasons other than their belief in the aid he can render them in digging the canal, and in case their expectations about any subordinate are not fulfilled he will expect them to dismiss him out of hand and to pay not the slightest heed to any backing or influence the man may have. As regards the work itself, that is to be done as expeditiously as possible and as economically as is consistent with thoroughness. The President assumes, of course, that it is not necessary to say anything as to the standard of honesty to be exacted of every employee and contractor, but he emphasizes the need of unceasing vigilance in the performance of the great work.

A matter of chief importance to which the letter directs special attention is that of sanitation and hygiene. The commission is directed to secure the best medical experts procurable to look out for this object, and to make the contractors submit as implicitly as its own employees to all the rules and regulations of the medical department. In every direction the best talent the country can afford is to be secured to meet the conditions created by every need that may arise. At the same time the expenditures are to be supervised as rigorously as if they were being made for a private corporation dependent for its profits upon the returns. The letter, according to Bradstreets, embodies a considerable amount of elementary and didactic material, but what is said in it is unexceptionable, and its expressions must certainly give the members strong encouragement in holding out against pressure and in standing for a strict enforcement of duty without regard to the extraneous and forbidden forces, which always tend to gather about great works and to infect them with jobbery and scandal.

## RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Comparisons between Russia and Japan fill the magazines. A very clear account has appeared in that excellent publication the World's Work, from which some facts can be condensed. Russia is two and a half times as large as the United States and Alaska. It has 30,000 miles of coast line, half of it ice-bound, and 36,000 miles of railway, two-thirds of which is owned by the government. This is operated at a loss, the traffic charges not coming anywhere near the expense. Carrying troops and stores over the line have practically stopped ordinary traffic, and the expense for 1904 will be enormous.

The United States has fifty-three times as many miles of telegraph as Russia has, and she sends fifteen times as much mail, which shows the ignorance of the population. The United States has twenty-three times as many factories. Russia produces one-twentieth as much coal and one-sixth as much iron as the United States. The main agricultural product is grain. The population is 141,000,000 of which 66 per cent is Russian, 7 per cent Polish, 5 per cent Finns, 9 per cent Turco-Tatars, and 3 per cent Jews. Put in this way the Jewish population seems very small, but 3 per cent of 141,000,000 gives a total Jewish population of over 4,000,000. The average laborer gets one-fourth as much wages as in the United States. In this vast area, only 90 daily papers are issued. The Empire of Japan includes 3,000 islands, stretching nearly 2,900

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miles. Of course some of these are only rocky islets. The area is 161,153 square miles, about equal to the North Atlantic States. Practically every Japanese can read and write his own language. The population is 44,000,000. There are 480 daily papers in Japan. Japanese coal stands as one of its chief products, the output is over 9,000,000 tons. In textile goods there has been a great increase, the output amounting to \$36,000,000.

As a progressive country Japan is far ahead of Russia. The Japanese have adapted themselves to progressive methods, while the Russians are if anything retrograde. Japan's credit is better than that of Russia and with her continued success in the present war, the progress of Japan is fairly assured.

If the Nature Man's anti-clothes theories should take hold here, it would very likely ruin the "Bystander's" tailoring business.

President Crabbe having returned, speaking from the floor, said the Legislature had no right, under the Organic Act, to appoint a commission or any board of a public character.

Mr. Isenberg—"That is the best argument we have had yet."

Mr. Dickey—"The very best argument."

The Organic Act's provision relates to boards of a public character "created by law." It has nothing to do with a commission organized and appointed by resolution, any more than with a standing committee of the House or Senate.

The Governor's appointments went through with a rush yesterday. There is very little now for the Legislature to do and by Saturday everything will be finished up.

With A. J. Campbell as Treasurer and L. E. Pinkham as President of the Board of Health, Governor Carter has a force of heads of departments which promises to be strong and capable. The ensuing year, in view of the necessity for economy will be a trying one. If satisfactorily conducted it will be a great triumph for Governor Carter.

## Classified Ads in Star.

Ads under "Situations Wanted," inserted free until further notice.

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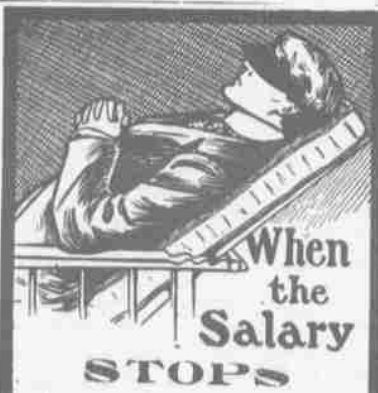
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formation that led to the conviction of the murderer, Doyle through his intimate acquaintance with the Japanese language overheard a conversation of certain Japanese which furnished him with the basis on which to work to unravel the mystery. Within a few days after Doyle had established the theory on which he decided to work, he had succeeded in securing a complete confession from the murderer and establishing such a positive case against the man, that conviction was the only logical outcome of the affair.

It is stated that reductions in income of the Bishop Museum has made necessary reduction of the working force of the institution. Outside of the trustees of the institution, among those who are interested in it, and try to keep in touch with its work, the opinion prevails very extensively, that changes are made in the staff very largely on the whim or caprice of the director whose jealousy of other persons connected with the institution receiving any credit for work done is a matter of common belief.

Matters are not in a pleasant position in Spain. Only the other day an attempt was made to assassinate the young king, and now the premier has been personally assaulted. One would think that Spain's rulers would eliminate Barcelona from their calling list.

A rumor comes that a Russian attack upon the Japanese lines upon the Yalu has been repulsed. This would mean, presumably that the Russians had at last taken the offensive. It does not look as if the Japanese were going to be swept out of Korea and the treaty signed in Tokio as General Kuropatkin thought would be the case.

## IT IS REMARKED That Horses and Cattle

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